



## Police Department

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### **Apartment Safety Project Fact Sheet**

In 2009 the Chula Vista Police Department was awarded a 2-year, \$357,000 federal grant to establish a Neighborhood Prosecution Unit (NPU) to work on the Apartment Safety Project: Carol Trujillo, Deputy City Attorney (619-409-5466), [ctrujillo@chulavistapd.org](mailto:ctrujillo@chulavistapd.org), and a half-time assistant, Police Records Specialist Leslie Guthrie (619-691-5127). The grant runs through April 2012.

**Project Goal:** Improve quality of life for apartment residents in Chula Vista by reducing crime and disorder, in partnership with other City departments (i.e. City Attorney's Office and Code Enforcement), landlords, tenants, and community groups

**Strategy:** Similar to the Department's successful motel project, which cut drug arrests by 60% and calls to police in half. Provide crime-prevention resources, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design surveys, site-specific recommendations, arrest and calls-for-service information (CFS) for the property, meetings at the property with crime prevention and community resources. Emphasis is education, voluntary participation.

**Scope:** Apartments of 8-units or more (340), home to an estimated 60,000 residents (26% of Chula Vista's population)

**Focus:** Apartments with high calls for police services

**2009 Calls for Service:** Top calls for police services in Chula Vista's 340 complexes were domestic violence and family disturbances (total 20%), followed by noise and disturbances by persons (total 19%).

**Project leadership team:** In addition to Carol and Leslie, Captain Gary Wedge, Lieutenants Phil Collum and Roxana Kennedy (North and South District Commanders), Senior Public Safety Analyst Karin Schmerler, Public Safety Analyst Melanie Culuko, Police Community Relations Specialist Angela Gaines, Street Team Sergeant Christine Penwell

**Ongoing:** Reviewing best practices, legal landscape for landlords, tenants; gathering contact information for owners/managers; piloting a new software program to facilitate communication on the project; briefing City leaders, apartment and business associations, community groups

**Surveys:** 3 surveys were conducted in 2010-11: 1) focus group of managers of low-crime complexes for best practices; 2) online and mailed questionnaire for 340 managers/operators on management practices, crime concerns; 3) drop-off, mail-in questionnaire for residents of complexes with high CFS on crime concerns (Note: the operator and resident surveys were voluntary and anonymous – names of landlords, residents, and complexes were not collected in the surveys. Survey results will be reported by complex size, such as small, medium and large.)

**Communication and Resources:** Survey results will be shared with landlords and tenants in community meetings, along with information on calls for police and arrests by complex, best practices, crime-prevention and safety resources, and a California landlord-tenant manual. This information also will be posted on a future project website. The Chula Vista Police Department is asking landlords of apartment properties with high calls for police services to meet one-on-one to provide CFS at the property and discuss public safety concerns, complex-specific problems (i.e. drugs, violence, loud parties) and solutions, and crime-prevention practices.